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BY
The Prudential Insurance Co. of America
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To Protect Citizens of Maryland from Certain Communica-
ble Diseases, Especially

Tuberculosis of the Lungs and Larynx.

CHAPTER 399, ACTS OF 1904.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland that from and after the date of the passage of this Act, any person affected with any disease whose virus or infecting agent is contained in the sputum, saliva, or other bodily secretion or excretion who shall so dispose of his sputum, saliva or other bodily secretion or excretion as to cause offense or danger to any person or persons occupying the same room or apartment, house or part of a house, shall on complaint of any person or persons subjected to such offense or danger be deemed guilty of a nuisance and any person subjected to such a nuisance may make complaint in person or writing to the Commissioner of Health of Baltimore city or the local health officer of any city, town or county in the State of Maryland where the nuisance complained of arises or exists and it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Health or of any local health officer receiving such complaint to investigate and if it appears that the nuisance complained of is such as to cause offense or danger to any person occupying the same room, apartment, house or part of a house, he shall serve notice upon the person so complained of reciting the alleged cause of offense or danger and requiring him to dispose of his sputum, saliva or other bodily secretion or excretion in such a manner as to remove all reasonable cause of offense or danger. And any person failing or refusing to comply with orders or regulations of the Health Commissioner of Baltimore city or of the health officer of any city, town or county, requiring such nuisance to be abated, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be fined ten dollars, provided that the requirements of this section shall apply only to pulmonary and laryngeal tuberculosis, pneumonia, influenza and such

other diseases as the State Board of Health may from time to time determine to be communicable by means of sputum, saliva or other bodily secretion or excretion.

SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of the physician attending any case of pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis to provide for the safety of all individuals occupying the same house or apartment, and if no physician be attending such patient this duty shall devolve upon the local health board and all duties made incumbent upon the physician in the following sections shall be performed by the local board of health in all cases of pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis not attended by a physician or when the physician is unwilling or unable to perform the duties specified.

SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of the local board of health to transmit to the physician reporting any case of pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis a printed report after the manner and form to be prepared and authorized by the State Board of Health naming such procedures and precautions as in the opinion of the State Board of Health are necessary or desirable to be taken on the premises of the said tuberculous case, and it shall be the duty of the State Board of Health to print and keep on hand sufficient number of such report blanks and to furnish the same in sufficient number to any local board of health upon due requisition of the latter. Upon receipt of the blank report the physician shall fill, sign and date the same and return to the local board of health without delay provided that if the attending physician is unwilling or unable to undertake the procedure and precautions specified he shall so state upon his report blank, the duties herein prescribed shall then devolve upon the local board of health. Upon receipt of this report the local board of health shall carefully examine the same and if satisfied that the attending physician shall have taken all necessary and desirable precautions to insure the safety of all persons living in the house or apartments occupied by the consumptive and to insure the safety of the people of the State of Maryland, the said local board of health shall issue an order on the State Board of Health in favor of the attending physician for the sum of one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) to be paid by the State Board of Health out of a fund hereinafter provided. If the precautions taken by the attending physician are in the opinion of the local board of health, not such as will

remove all reasonable danger or probability of danger to the persons occupying the said house or apartment the local board of health shall return to the attending physician the report blank with a letter specifying the additional precautions which they shall require him to take, and the said attending physician shall immediately take the additional precautions specified and shall record and return the same on the original blank to the local board of health. It shall further be the duty of the local board of health to transmit to the physician reporting any case of pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis a printed requisition which shall be prepared by the State Board of Health and issued in sufficient number to any local board of health upon due requisition of the latter. Upon this requisition blank shall be named the materials kept on hand by the local board of health for the prevention of the spread of the disease, and it shall be the duty of the State Board of Health to purchase such supplies as it may deem necessary from the fund hereinafter provided and to supply them to any local board of health upon the requisition of the latter. Any physician may return a duly signed requisition to the local board of health for such of the specified materials and in such amount as he may deem necessary in preventing the spread of the disease, and all local boards of health shall honor as far as possible a requisition signed by the attending physician in such case. It shall be the duty of every local board of health to transmit to every physician reporting any case of pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis or to the persons reported as suffering from this disease provided the latter have no attending physician, a circular of information prepared and printed by the State Board of Health and which shall be furnished in sufficient quantity to every local board of health on due requisition of the latter. This circular of information shall inform the consumptive of the best methods of cure of his disease and of the precautions necessary to avoid transmitting the disease to others.

SECTION 4. Any physician or person practicing as a physician who shall fail to execute the duties prescribed by this act or who shall knowingly report as affected with pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis any person who is not so affected, or who shall wilfully make any false statement concerning the name, age, color, sex, address or occupation of any person reported as affected with pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis, or who shall certify falsely as to any of the precautions taken to prevent

the spread of infection shall be deemed guilty of fraud and on conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine of one hundred dollars or to imprisonment not exceeding six months, or to both fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

SECTION 5. The State Board of Health shall prepare and keep on hand all the circulars, blanks and printed matter required by the preceding section and all additional printed matter necessary in executing the provisions of this act, and shall issue the same in sufficient quantity to the local boards of health on due requisition of the latter, and the said State Board of Health shall further purchase and issue upon due requisition to the local boards of health the supplies required by the provisions of this act. For the purpose of defraying the expenses of printed matter and postage, for recompensing physicians for measures of prophylaxis, and for purchasing and issuing the supplies necessary in carrying out the provisions of this act the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) annually or as much thereof as may be necessary is hereby appropriated, payable by the treasurer of the State upon warrant of the comptroller at such times and in such sums as may be authorized by the State Board of Health upon presentation of the proper voucher.

SECTION 6. And be it enacted that this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 8, 1904.